

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2016**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

T. Scott Efird, Chairman
Bill Lawhon, Vice Chairman
Peter Ascianto
Joseph Burleson
Tony Dennis
Janet K. Lowder

ABSENT:

Gene McIntyre

STAFF PRESENT:

Andy Lucas, County Manager
Jenny Furr, County Attorney
Tyler Brummitt, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in regular session on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Efird called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lawhon gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

With no amendments to the agenda, Commissioner Burleson moved to approve it as presented. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Efird noted that Commissioner McIntyre was absent due to a family emergency.

ITEM # 1 – CHARLOTTE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (CRP) PRESENTATION

Presenter: Ronnie Bryant, CEO

Mr. Bryant along with several other staff members of Charlotte Regional Partnership were in attendance to provide an overview of their mission which is to leverage regional resources to market the 16-county Charlotte region (12 in North Carolina and 4 in South Carolina) for long-term growth, job creation and investment opportunities. Throughout the year, the business development team hosts, visits and responds to site selection advisors and corporate decision makers around the world to generate opportunities for the region. The Partnership also

spreads the word by working with national and international reporters on stories that position the region as a premier business destination.

Mr. Bryant stressed the importance of the county having product or “pad-ready” sites available for companies looking to expand or relocate in order to be competitive and meet the timeline they are looking for to begin production. He stated that Lincoln and Gaston counties have invested in such sites and have had many opportunities for growth in doing so. It was also noted that counties similar to Stanly have an advantage since land is more competitively priced outside of cities such as Charlotte.

Mr. Bryant reiterated the CRP’s continued support of Stanly County by working to help the county to be successful and to create as many opportunities as possible in the future.

The presentation was for information only and required no action.

ITEM # 2 – UPDATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CTP) FOR STANLY COUNTY, TOWN OF RED CROSS AND CITY OF LOCUST

Presenters: Dana Stoogenke, Rocky River RPO Director

Scott Cole, NC DOT /Division 10

Ms. Stoogenke provided an update on the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) new draft plan for western Stanly County’s CTP which is currently under public comment until March 15, 2016. After that time, any information received will be submitted to NC DOT for further revisions to the plan and thereafter submitted for adoption by the City of Locust, Town of Red Cross and Stanly County officials.

Based on the maps presented, the following were recommendations included in the new draft plan:

- Widening of the portion of NC 24/27 which runs through Locust into a four (4) lane boulevard from just west of Providence Street to Stanly Parkway,
- Creation of an alternate route for local east/west traffic by adding a road parallel to NC 24/27 which would extend Stanly Parkway and stop at NC Highway 200,
- Extension of Lions Club Road east of Coley Store Road to provide another non-highway option for local traffic,
- Three (3) proposed roundabouts: one along NC 200 at the juncture of Meadow Creek Church Road, another near West Stanly Middle School at the juncture of Running Creek Church Road and Bethel Church Road, and a third in Red Cross at the three-way juncture of Hilltop Road, Hatley-Burris Road and NC Highway 205,

- Widening of nine (9) roads: Meadow Creek Church Road from NC 24/27 to NC 200; Bethel Church Road from NC 200 to NC 24/27; Lions Club Road from NC 200 to the end of the road; NC 205 from NC 24/27 to Liberty Hill Church Road; Brown's Hill Road from NC 24/27 to just north of Nance Road; Coley Store Road from NC 24/27 to just north of Hinson Farm Lane; Elm Street from NC 200 to Big Lick Road; Renee Ford Road from NC 200 to just south of Brentwood Drive; and Austin Road turn onto Bethel Church Road,
- Addition of two (2) new bicycle routes – one along NC 205 through Red Cross and another along the Stanly Parkway.

Ms. Stoogenke entertained questions from the Board and then introduced Mr. Scott Cole with the local NC DOT Division 10 office. Mr. Cole was present to respond to questions related to the schedule change for Highway 24/27 project. He noted that the project, which is still in the planning stages, has experienced a nine (9) month delay due to exploring the option of rehabilitating the old Swift Island Bridge which is considered to be historic due to its architecture. Mr. Cole learned earlier in the day that the rehabilitation can be done and the DOT is now working to compress some of the time lost during the study. Originally, right-of-way acquisitions were expected to begin in March 2017 and construction begin in March 2019. Due to the bridge study, the time frame to begin right-of way acquisition is now closer to December 2017 with construction beginning in December 2019.

No Board action was required.

ITEM # 3 – BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

A. Board of Adjustment

Currently there are two (2) vacant alternate positions on the Board of Adjustment. It was requested the Board appoint one alternate member with a term ending June 30, 2018 and a second alternate member with a term ending June 30, 2019.

Commissioner Asciutto nominated Ms. Cynthia Winchester Fish as alternate for the term ending June 30, 2018. Commissioner Lawhon nominated Mr. David Dulin as alternate for the term ending June 30, 2019. Commissioner Dennis moved to close the nominations.

Commissioner Burleson moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Cynthia Fish and Mr. David Dulin as requested. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis and carried by unanimous vote.

B. NURSING HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Current committee members Ms. Hazel Lefler, Ms. Hilda Lee and Mr. Bill Mullinix, Jr. terms expired February 28, 2016. Ms. Lefler and Mr. Mullinix, Jr. have agreed to serve again if reappointed. However, Ms. Lee resigned her position effective February 28, 2016. It was requested the Board take action to reappoint both Ms. Lefler and Mr. Mullinix, Jr. with each to serve a three (3) year term to expire February 28, 2019. The advisory committee voted in October 2015 to keep the number of members at ten (10) and have requested that a replacement not be appointed for Ms. Lee at this time.

Commissioner Lawhon nominated Ms. Lefler and Mr. Mullinix, Jr. as requested. Commissioner Dennis moved to close the nominations.

Commissioner Burleson moved to approve the nominations as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Dennis. The motion passed with a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

Presenter: Chairman Efird

- A.** Minutes – Recessed meeting of February 12, 2016 and regular meeting of February 15, 2016
- B.** Finance – Request acceptance of the Monthly Financial Report for Seven Months Ended January 31, 2016.
- C.** Sheriff's Office – Request approval of budget amendments # 2016-28 and #2016-29.
- D.** Health Dept. – Request approval of budget amendment # 2016-31.
- E.** Soil & Water- Request approval of budget amendment # 2016-30.
- F.** Finance – Consider and approve the attached vehicle tax refunds.

Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawhon. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Graves of Albemarle addressed the Board regarding the misleading information that has been posted on social media since the Board met with Dr. Griffin and other school board members during the Board's retreat on February 12th. He requested the Board consider making a statement to clarify its response to the school's presentation.

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & ANNUAL REPORTS

In response to Mr. Graves, Commissioner Ascitto stated his understanding of the school's presentation was the following: 1) that there are enough funds available to operate the school system as is, but not enough to fund any of the proposed improvements, 2) the school board

can close/consolidate schools to save \$2.1 million annually and better utilize those funds for education, or 3) all schools can be kept open and offer enhanced curriculum options, which is inefficient, at a cost of \$2.6 million annually. Commissioner Asciutto stated he saw the presentation as a request for money to which the County Commissioners made no commitment to fund.

Commissioner Asciutto also responded to a recent radio address by Commissioner Burleson which stated that he is in favor of establishing a parks and recreation fund in the amount of \$250,000 - \$500,000 each year to help municipalities fund one-time capital projects. To clarify, Commissioner Asciutto noted the amount he requested to be considered by the Board is \$25,000 - \$50,000 annually which is much less than presented. Additionally, Commissioner Asciutto responded to a recent campaign ad sponsored by the Stanly County Citizens for Conservative Leadership which claims he is the most expensive county commissioner in terms of benefits and pay. Commissioner Asciutto provided a breakdown of the benefits for the Board members noting that all commissioners receive the same basic compensation (except for the chairman who receives a slightly higher amount) and the option of county health insurance benefits in which the premium is based on the person's age and health criteria.

Commissioner Lawhon stated that he had recently attended the Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Awards Banquet where local students and businesses were recognized and congratulated each of them on their achievements.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Burleson moved to recess the meeting into closed session to discuss a real estate transaction in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11(a)(5). His motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis and carried by unanimous vote at 7:40 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Lowder moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burleson and passed with a 7 – 0 vote at 8:02 p.m.

Terry Scott Efird, Chairman

Tyler L. Brummitt, Clerk